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DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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ATOMIC PILE TICKING SOON

East Germany's first atom reactor will start work this year, Professor Barwich, head of the German Democratic Republic's Central Institute for Atomic Physics announced at the beginning of the year.

"Putting the reactor to work will mean that we can go ahead both with the pure scientific research on neutron physics and reactor physics, and also with the practical task of producing isotopes" Professor Barwich stated.

He said that the main task of the Central Institute for Atomic Physics, centred round the reactor, was to train the scientists and technicians who would do the further work on the peaceful use of atomic energy.

During the coming year a small group of the most highly skilled atomic scientists from the German Democratic Republic will take up their work at the international atomic research centre established by the socialist countries at the Soviet atomic town of Dubna.

MOSCOW – BERLIN AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AID, TROOP PACT, DISARMAMENT PROGRAMME

Important agreements on a whole range of political and economic problems were reached in Moscow on January 7th, after negotiations between the Government of the German Democratic Republic and the Government of the Soviet Union. Main results of the five-day talks can be summarised as follows:

1. Trade between the two countries will be greatly increased in the coming year; the Soviet Union will supply East Germany with urgently needed coke and steel; East Germany will receive an immediate convertible currency credit of about 85,000,000 dollars.

2. A whole series of larger and smaller problems arising from war-time and post-war developments were settled on the spot, or will be settled in detail by specific agreements to be concluded in the near future. Some of these problems are:

a) The precise status of Soviet troops stationed in Germany, including jurisdiction, housing, the use of transport facilities etc.

b) The air sovereignty of the German Democratic Republic, with specific reference to the air corridor between Berlin and West Germany.

c) Questions of consular rights and cooperation in civil law.

d) The return of art treasures, archives etc., moved from one country to the other in the war and post-war period.

e) Questions of unclarified citizenship, and measures to reunite families now split.

f) The question of war graves, monuments, etc.

3. The Soviet Union and East Germany agreed that the solution of the German problem was primarily something to be accomplished by the Germans themselves. A prerequisite to unity must be the abandonment of the remilitarisation of West Germany.

4. The two governments called for step-by-step disarmament in Europe, and the cooperation of

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MOSCOW – BERLIN AGREEMENT

both German states in a system of European collective security.

5. The two governments pledged their cooperation with the countries of the middle and near east struggling for their liberty and national independence.

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The agreement between the two states was signed by Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl, leader of the delegation of the German Democratic Republic, and Prime Minister N. A. Bulganin, leader of the Soviet delegation.

Here, in more detail, are some of the main points made by the official communique issued at the conclusion of the talks:

Economic Agreements

The Soviet Union will supply the German Democratic Republic with increased quantities of coke, oil, steel, wood and other raw materials and foodstuffs in 1957. Total deliveries from the Soviet Union will be increased more than 30 % above the 1956 level. (Unofficial figures available in Berlin showed that the Soviet Union supplied the German Democratic Republic with goods valued at some 1800 million roubles in 1956, ed.) In return the German Democratic Republic will increase its exports of machinery and other industrial goods to the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union will grant the German Democratic Republic a special credit of 340 million roubles in convertible currency in 1957.

A special agreement will be concluded during 1957 under which the engineering industries of the two countries will achieve still closer cooperation.

Status of Soviet Troops

"Both sides raised questions connected with the provisional stationing of Soviet troops on the territory of the German Democratic Republic on the basis of existing international treaties and agreements. (The main agreements in this connection are the Potsdam Agreement of 1945 and the Warsaw Treaty of 1955, ed.) ... An agreement will be concluded in the near future settling questions arising from the stationing of Soviet troops in the territory of the German Democratic Republic; the questions to be dealt with include in particular jurisdiction in criminal and civil cases, questions connected with housing and other buildings used by the Soviet troops, and with the use of telecommunication and transport facilities which belong to the German Democratic Republic, etc.

Air Sovereignty

"... There was an exchange of opinions on the exercise of air sovereignty by the German Democratic Republic. Both sides agreed that the existing Four Power agreements on the use of the air corridors between Berlin and West Germany by the aircraft of USA, Britain and France were of a provisional and limited character, and that these agreements did not affect the principle of the recognition of the air sovereignty of the German Democratic Republic."

It was agreed that an agreement defining consular rights should be concluded in the near future. Another agreement should be concluded on cooperation in the field of civil law.

It was agreed that all questions dealing with the mutual return of art works, archives, etc., should be thoroughly examined, and that all such questions arising from the war period should be settled.

Steps will be taken to clear up all questions of unclarified citizenship between the two countries, and the question of emigration for those persons with near relations in the Soviet Union or the German Democratic Republic.

Agreement was also reached on the care for monuments and graves of one party situated on the territory of the other party.

German Unity

"Both sides agreed that a peaceful democratic solution of the German problem was of the greatest importance both for the future of the German nation and for peace in Europe. The foundation for the peaceful and democratic solution of the German problem is an understanding and rapprochement between the two Ger-

"ONLY ONE MAIN PATH TO SOCIALISM"

— Claim Soviet & German Parties

The main path to socialism is the same for all countries, stated the communique issued on January 8th in Moscow after negotiations between leading representatives of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The communique emphasised that the two parties "agreed fully on all questions discussed", and that the relations between the two parties should be further strengthened and extended. The communique continued:

"The representatives of the two parties follow with particular attention the revival of militarism in West Germany, which represents a serious threat, not only to the people of the German Democratic Republic and the USSR, but also to France, Poland and other European countries, and to the people of the entire world.

"Under these circumstances ... we believe it necessary that all Communist and Workers' parties should stand together on the basis of Marxism-Leninism, and that they should strive to unite the peace-loving forces against the attacks of the imperialist reaction in the spirit of proletarian internationalism. This means that the Communist and Workers' parties must decisively reject every attempt to revise the basis principles of Marxism-Leninism. In this connection the unity of views and deeds of the Communist and Workers' parties in the countries of the socialist camp in the basic questions of socialist construction is of great importance. The representatives of the two parties hold the view that despite the existence of national peculiarities and the special forms and methods of building socialism in the individual countries, the main path to socialism is the same for all countries."

man states, something which was above all a matter for the two German states themselves.

"The main obstacle to the reunification of Germany as a peace-loving and democratic state is the present political course of the Government of the German Federal Republic, its policy of remilitarisation, its participation in the aggressive war block of NATO, and its suppression of democratic rights and liberties in West Germany ...

"Both sides take the view that the interests of European security and the national interests of the German people demand that the Government of the German Federal Republic abandon its policy of remilitarising West Germany, and that the governments of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic should reach agreement on questions of an all-German character. This would smooth the way to a final solution of the German problem.

"During the negotiations it was emphasised that the peaceloving policy of the German Democratic Republic was an important factor in ensuring peace and security in Europe, and that the steps taken by the German Democratic Republic along the path of democracy and socialism are the greatest achievements of the German working people.

"On the basis of their alliance under the Warsaw Treaty the Governments of the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union declare that all attempts to use methods of force in the solution of the German question, and all attempts to use hostile methods to undermine the people's democratic order in the German Democratic Republic, will be frustrated."

Disarmament and Allied Problems

The communique reviewed the practical steps towards disarmament already taken by the two states: The German Democratic Republic had reduced its forces by one quarter, limited them to a maximum of 90,000 men, and renounced conscription; the Soviet Union had reduced its forces by 1,840,000 men.

"Both sides believe that a step-by-step solution of the disarmament problem is suitable and promises success. The first step could be the immediate banning of further atom and hydrogen bomb tests ... A partial solution of the disarmament question would be achieved by the creation of a zone of limited armaments in Europe, a zone which would include both parts of Germany.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic supports the Soviet proposal for an inter-state agreement on disarmament which would provide for control points in large harbours, key railway junctions and on airfields; the Government of the German Democratic Republic is ready to cooperate in the plan for air inspection proposed by the Soviet Union."

The communique stated that the Soviet Union agreed that the governments and parliaments of both parts of Germany would have to cooperate in the control of any such disarmament agreement concluded between the states which have troops stationed in Germany.

The communique called once again for the creation of a collective security system in Europe, with the participation of both German states pending the reunification of Germany.

International Affairs

Both sides joined in condemning the recent sharpening of international tension resulting from "the imperialist aggression against Egypt, the counter-revolutionary putsch in Hungary, and the resultant reactionary offensive against the parties and the trade unions of the working class in many capitalist countries".

The communique reiterated the belief of the two partners that there could be peaceful coexistence between all states irrespective of their social systems.

"The Governments of the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union declare their readiness to support allround extension of practical cooperation with the countries of the middle and near east which are waging a just struggle for their liberty and national independence ... Although the imperialist aggression against the Egyptian people has failed, the war danger cannot be regarded as definitely past. Both governments give their support to the just demand of the Egyptian Republic for the punishment of those responsible for the aggression and the deeds of force, and the just claim of the Egyptian people for reparation to be made for the damage caused by those states which launched the war against Egypt".

FEDERATION MOOTED FOR GERMANY

Future steps towards German unity might include some form of federation between East and West, East Germany's Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht has announced.

Herr Ulbricht made this suggestion for the first time in a long article entitled "What We Want, and What We Do Not Want", published on December 30th 1956. The federation proposals had this form:

"Since two states with varying social systems exist today in Germany, it is necessary to bring these two states nearer to each other: later a provisional solution could be found in the form of a confederacy or a federaton until it became possible to achieve reunification and really democratic elections to a national assembly".

Political observers in Berlin drew attention to the fact that this was the first time that any leading politician of the German Democratic Republic had proposed a federal solution as a step towards national unity.

In his article Walter Ulbricht stated that the Government of the German Democratic Republic had never made reunification conditional upon the introduction of a socialist system in West Germany; on the other hand the West German Government had always demanded the reintroduction of capitalism in East Germany.

Herr Ulbricht stated that he was convinced that in a reunited democratic Germany the working class, the peasants and all other working sections of the population would decide in favour of socialism.

"Our Social Democratic comrades in West Germany must understand that the militarists who have the power in West Germany today are the common enemy" Herr Ulbricht said. "The peace-loving people of the German Democratic Republic cannot unite with General Speidel, the nazi officials in the West German Foreign Ministry, and the fascist forces who rule today in West Germany."

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

We print opposite a map showing the administrative districts, of which there are fifteen including East Berlin, and distribution of industry in East Germany, together with some other items of general information.

Rostock

Area: 7,000 square km., about 70 per cent arable and 16 per cent forest land. Population: 800,000.

About 20 per cent industrial workers, mainly in shipbuilding; the chief export item is river-going passenger-boats. Other industries are processing of farm products and sea fish. About 30 per cent of the population are farmers and fishermen. Higher educational institutes: University of Rostock — 3,000 students; University of Greifswald — 2,000 students.

Schwerin

Area: 8,600 square km., about 65 per cent arable and 22 per cent forest land. Population: 700,000.

About 45 per cent of the population are farmers and 10 industrial workers. Exports: fishing vessels, refrigerator ships and agricultural machines.

Neubrandenburg

Area: 11,000 square km., 63 per cent arable and 22 per cent forest land. Population: 700,000.

More than half the population is engaged in farming.

Potsdam

Area: 12,000 square km., about 50 percent arable and 35 per cent forest land. Population: 1.2 million.

About one fifth of the population is engaged in industry and a third in farming.

Important industrial centres are: Brandenburg and Hennigsdorf — steel and rolling mills; Rathenow — fine mechanical and optical industries; Wildau — heavy engineering; Potsdam-Babelsberg — locomotives; Brandenburg — tractors. Main exports: equipment for the heavy engineering industry, locomotives and tractors.

Higher educational institutes: Potsdam Institute of Pedagogics — 1,400 students; German Academy of Cinematographic Art — 100 students.

Frankfurt (Oder)

Area: 7,000 square km., about 50 per cent arable and 35 per cent forest land. Population: 600,000.

About one fifth industrial workers and 35 per cent farmers. Main industries: metallurgy and manufacture of building materials. Important industrial centres: Eberswalde—crane construction; Frankfurt-on-Oder — transshipment centre for goods to and from Poland and the Soviet Union.

Cottbus

Area: 8,200 square km. Population 800,000.

About 30 per cent industrial workers and 30 per cent farmers. Mixed economy, but with a rapidly increasing brown coal mining industry in the Senftenberg district, which has 60 per cent of the total lignite deposits of the Republic. The "Black Pump" mining and coking plant project is in this area. Production of building materials is also high and the district is one of the most thickly wooded in the Republic.

Higher educational institutes: Cottbus Building Academy — 200 students.

Magdeburg

Area: 11,000 square km. Population: 1.5 million.

About 30 per cent industrial workers and 30 per cent farmers. Extensive engineering, foodstuffs and mining engineering industries. Main exports: heavy industrial equipment, diesel engines, fittings and beet sugar.

Higher educational institutes: College of Heavy Engineering Magdeburg — 900 students; Medical College, Magdeburg — 200 students.

Halle

Area: 8,000 square km. Population: 2.1 million.

About 40 per cent industrial workers and 15 per cent land workers. The most highly industrialised district in the Republic. Important industrial centres: Leuna and Buna—Chemical Works, Bitterfeld—Chemical Combine and aluminium works, Piesteritz-Nitrogen Works, Hettstedt—steel and rolling mills, Dessau — rail vehicles, Aschersleben — machine tools, Weissenfels — light industries. A large proportion of the Republic's export articles are produced in the Halle district. Higher educational institutes: University of Halle — 4,500 students; Technical Chemical College, Leuna-Merseburg.

Erfurt

Area: 7,300 square km., 66 per cent arable and 22 per cent woodland. Population: 1.4 million.

30 per cent are industrial and 25 per cent farm workers. Main industries: Ruhla — important fine mechanical and optical industry, mainly typewriters, watches and laboratory equipment; Eisenach — automobile industry; Gotha — railway cars; Nordhausen — tractors; Weimar —

agricultural machinery; Erfurt — machine tools.

Main exports: potash fertilisers, machine tools, motor cars, telecommunication plant and typewriters.

Higher educational institutes: College of Architecture, Weimar — 700 students; Erfurt Medical College — 200 students; College of Music, Weimar — 300 students.

Gera

Area: 4,000 square km. Population: 750,000.

40 per cent industrial and 20 per cent agricultural workers. Main manufactures: metallurgy, building materials, fine mechanics and optics, textiles. Main centres: Jena — Zeiss fine mechanics and optics; Unterwellenborn — Maxhuette metallurgical works; Gera — machine tools and textile machines. Main exports: fine mechanical and optical instruments, machines, tools, industrial equipment, textiles, printed products, musical instruments.

Higher educational institutes: University of Jena — 4,000 students.

Suhl

Area: just under 3,900 square km. Population: just over 500,000.

About 40 per cent industrial workers. Has rich natural deposits and forest lands.

Main industries: metalworking and glass-blowing. Chief exports: mopeds and bicycles, radio valves, hand tools and measuring instruments, laboratory glass and thermometers, toys, hunting guns and office machines; potash.

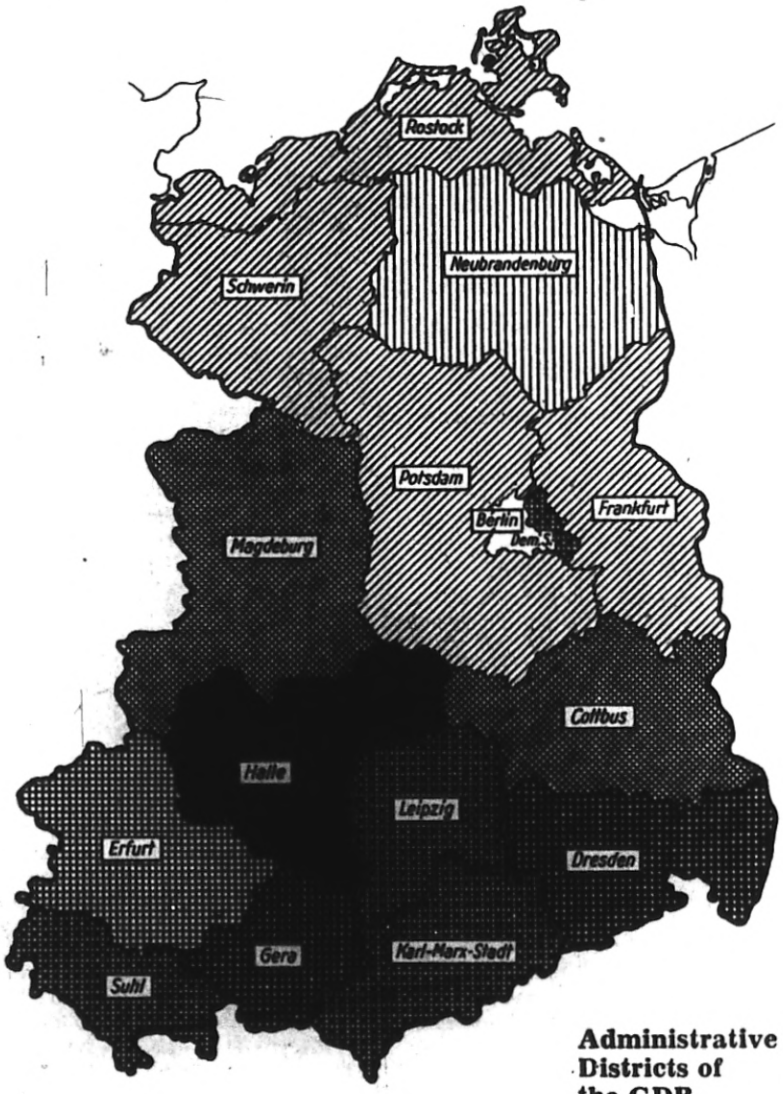
Higher educational institutes: Electro-technical College, Ilmenau — 900 students.

Dresden

Area: about 6,000 square km. Population: 2 million.

About 40 per cent industrial and 15 per cent farm workers. Main industries: light industries — textiles, clothing, leather goods, cellulose and paper; metalworking industries — rail-mobile vehicles in Goerlitz, Niesky and Bautzen, motor vehicles in Zittau, electrical equipment and office machines in Dresden, watches in Glashuette; metallurgical plants in Riesa and Doehlen; foodstuffs. Main exports: railway cars, motor lorries, specialised machinery, electrical products, cameras, television sets, musical instruments, paper products, foodstuffs.

Higher educational institutes: Dresden College of Technology — 8,600 students; Dresden Transport College — 1,700 students; Dresden Medical College — 300 students; Dresden Academy of Art — 100 students; Dresden College of Music — 150 students.



Administrative Districts of the GDR

Industrial Gross Production per Head of Population

500 - 1000	1001 - 1500	1501 - 2000	2001 - 2500	2501 - 3000	3001 - 3500	3501 - 4000

Deutsche Mark (Unit of Account)

Leipzig

Area: about 5,000 square km. Population: 1.6 million.

About 40 per cent industrial and 10 per cent agricultural workers.

Main industries: brown coal mining and chemicals; metalworking industries and light industries.

Main exports: brown coal, chemical products, conveyor plant, printing

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equipment, textiles, musical instruments, toys, furs.

Higher educational institutes: Karl Marx University, Leipzig — 9,000 students; College of Architecture, Leipzig — 300 students; College of Internal Trade, Leipzig — 450 students; German Academy of Physical Culture and Sport, Leipzig — 600 students; Leipzig College of Music — 300 students; German College of Dramatic Art.

Karl-Marx-Stadt

Area: 6,000 square km. Population: 2.3 million.

About half the population work in industry.

Main industries: light, metalworking and foodstuffs; ore mining (uranium and other rare metals).

Main exports: motor cars and lorries, radio sets, textile machinery and machine tools, cellular wool, carpets, textiles including perlon, toys, musical instruments.

Higher educational institutes: Freiberg Mining Academy — 1,500 students; College of Engineering, Karl Marx Stadt — 700 students.

Democratic Berlin

Area: 400 square km. Population: 1.2 million.

Main industries: electro-technical equipment, clothing and printed products.

Higher educational institutes: Humboldt University — 9,000 students; College of Economics and Planning — 1,000 students; German College of Foreign Trade — 300 students; College of Applied Art — 300 students; College of Music — 200 students.

(Condensed from "German Export", Berlin)

30,000 STRIKE 3 MONTHS

More than 30,000 West German metal workers have been on strike for more than three months, and by the middle of January there was no sign of the strike ending.

In a strike ballot taken on January 7th, 97 % of the 32,500 workers voted for a continuation of the strike, which is the fiercest industrial conflict in West Germany since the end of the war.

Main demands of the strikers are:

1. Improved holiday and sickness benefits.
2. Increased union rights in the factories, such as the election of shop stewards and the right to hold union meetings and collect union fees in the factories.

RAF OFFICER GOES EAST

An officer of the British Royal Air Force has received a residence permit in the German Democratic Republic, it was officially stated in Berlin on January 5th. The officer, Flying Officer Anthony Maynard Wraight, aged 22, of London, had arrived in East Germany on December 3rd and requested political asylum.

In a statement broadcast on January 5th by the East German Radio, Flying Officer Wraight stated that he had been opposed to British policy in Cyprus, and particularly to the British attack on Egypt. "It became clear to me that my political opinions were directly opposed to those of the British Government, and that I could no longer serve as an officer in the Royal Air Force" he stated.

The Air Ministry in London had announced on December 21st that Flying Officer Wraight had been absent without leave since December 3rd, and that it was known that on this date he had flown from London to West Berlin in a commercial aircraft.

Machines For Finland

The 1957 trade agreement between Finland and the German Democratic Republic provides for the purchase of timber, cellulose and products of the paper and wood industries from Finland in exchange for machine tools, automobiles, fine mechanical and optical instruments, products of the electro-technical, chemical and mining industries and consumer goods.

LETTER BOX

Views on Report

"Here are my views on GERMAN REPORT:

1. I think a better title would be "Democratic Germany".
2. There is need for more pictures to improve attractiveness.
3. The language is too often stereotyped. We need simple, homely, more natural expression.
4. I would like to see more articles on science, local customs and folk culture, and what ordinary people think and do.
5. There should be room for correspondence, and questions and answers.
6. Could you start a German language class, and would it be feasible to begin a holiday family exchange?

I think the covering of Nazi activity and history is one of the best features.

T. S., Putney.

(GERMAN REPORT replies: We have no space for a German language class, and we regret we cannot possibly double as a travel agency for family exchange schemes. What do readers think about the other proposals?)

Training Scientists

The East German educational system is more successful in training scientists than the West German system, the "Times", London, admitted on January 2nd. At the end of a long article detailing the difficulties facing students in West Germany, the "Times" correspondent in Bonn stated:

"...it can be assumed that something will be done soon, especially as the many advantages of the educational system in East Germany are gradually becoming known here. For obvious reasons, no Government here can for long afford to do less than the East German regime."

East Germany Doubles Trade With India

East Germany doubled its trade with India in 1956 compared with the previous year, it was officially announced in Berlin. In the same period trade with Egypt rose 70 %, and trade with Syria 190 %.

JACK-BOOTED ALIBI

The SS — Alibi of a Nation. By Gerald Reitlinger. Heinemann, London. 35 shillings.

Among the flood of books on Hitler's Germany published in the past few years, two stand out head and shoulders above the rest. They are both by Gerald Reitlinger, artist and archaeologist by profession, who in the past few years has devoted his attention to the painstaking investigation of nazi crimes.

His first book on the subject, "The Final Solution", published by Valentine Mitchell in London in 1953, was a fully documented and extremely accurate book on the nazi attempt to "solve the Jewish problem" by killing all the Jews of Europe.

Now he has supplemented this first book with an analysis of the SS, the black-uniformed Schutzstaffeln who carried out the ghastly work of massacre. Taken together, the two books are a monumental work on the biggest crime in history.

What makes them particularly valuable is that they are both based almost entirely upon German documents, and the utterances both during the war and later, of the men responsible for the crimes.

Mr Reitlinger did not have an easy task in writing the history of the SS. In the first place many of the key documents in the case were destroyed by the SS in the last days of the war in an attempt to conceal their crimes; and in the second place the SS was not simply one organisation but a conglomeration of army units, police squads, espionage organisations and dozens of pseudo-scientific branches. As Mr Reitlinger states in the opening chapter of his new book:

"Among the grotesque and unrelated activities of the SS there were offices whose concern was German archaeology and ancestral research, collecting the skeletons of 'sub-human races' and running baby farms. There were other SS offices devoted to forging foreign banknotes, to collecting information on alchemy and astrology. There were institutes for the cultivation of wild medicinal herbs and wild rubber roots, for the acclimatisation of the wild horse of the steppes. The SS also controlled a mineral water and a porcelain factory, numerous night clubs in foreign capitals and a publishing firm."

But those were only the "fringe" activities, and though the book touches on them all it devotes its main attention to the main task of the SS: the imposition of German fascist rule first on the German people and later upon all the peoples of occupied Europe, with its culmination in the liquidation of many millions of people for racial or political reasons.

One of the most valuable features of the book is that it proves to the hilt that by and large the German army and the German administration as a whole cooperated whole-heartedly in the crimes of the SS. There is a growing tendency in West Germany today to shrug off all responsibility for Hitler's crimes, if they are admitted at all. But Mr Reitlinger's book shows quite clearly that though there were savage internecine battles in the government apparatus as to who should run what, there was little or no serious opposition to the misdeeds of the SS from the people who today claim they were "simply ordinary officials doing their ordinary jobs." Here is one quotation from the book on this subject:

"In reality the protocol-ridden mentality of the professional diplomats served Himmler well. There was no thuggery from the deportation of Jews for the gas chambers to the crimping of alleged Germanic stock to serve in the Waffen SS, in which the German diplomats abroad did not assist Himmler's offices... As to the persecution of Jewry, it had been an interest of the Foreign Office even before Ribbentrop's day under the rule of Constantin von Neurath."

And when we read this we must remember that the West German Foreign Ministry is overwhelmingly staffed today with former nazi diplomats, the men who assisted Himmler, the head of the SS.

And this is why Mr Reitlinger has named his book: "The SS — Alibi of a Nation". The unreconstructed German militarists and nationalists have to a certain extent been successful in hanging all the blame on the SS. Mr Reitlinger puts it very plainly:

"The prosecutors (in the allied war crimes trials, ed.) accepted the hypothesis... that the SS was state within a state, responsible only to itself, the terror of German bureaucrats and the force that impelled them to tyranny and cruelty. Ten years of Allied war trials have not killed this view; on the contrary they have encouraged it. For though the mass of prosecution documents have refuted the myth, the pleas of German defendants, who had no part in the active SS, have perpetuated it as the basis of their defence... It is not realised that the massive machinery, by which more than four million Jews were dragged from their homes to die in often very distant concentration camps, ghettos and gas chambers, could never have been handled by a single obscure department of the Gestapo, could never have been secret and could not have happened at all without the minute interlocking of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministries of Transport, Finance, and Economics, the two High Command Offices, the Ministries of Labour and Armaments, and above all the Foreign Office."

This book, and its companion volume "The Final Solution", are required reading for any serious student of the German question.

... and today the SS is back!

Former officers of the black-uniformed SS are back in key positions in West Germany today, and officers up to the rank of colonel are being reintegrated in the West German Wehrmacht. Here are details of just a few of the criminals back in office:

Victor Emmanuel Preusker, West German Minister of Housing. Former SS officer and instructor on "racial problems".

Dr Walter Zirpins, chief of criminal department, Lower Saxony Ministry of Interior. Former SS officer in charge of Lodz Ghetto.

Dr Gabrysch, Chief District Court Judge in Hannover. Former SS officer and public prosecutor in Maribor, occupied Yugoslavia. Listed in Yugoslav War Criminal List under No A-16/1066.

Felix Gaerke, official in Legal Department, West German Foreign Ministry. Former officer in central SS "Racial and Resettlement Department".

Martin Elsner, Hans Egon Engell, Dr Alfred Gille, Waldemar Kraft, members of West German Parliament. Former SS officers.

GUEST NOTEBOOK

By Joan Becker

An indignant letter published in an East Berlin evening paper the other day about "hordes of rowdies, drunkards and wild gangsters" in central Berlin youth clubs rather made me sit up and take notice.

Of course there do seem to be a lot of teen-agers — boys and girls — going around in East as well as West Berlin in narrow pants and loud shirts, but this did seem rather exaggerated to me. The club which came in for the most criticism is a fairly new one — only a year old — in a former slum area which is still very much overcrowded. It used to be a rather cheap dance hall, and as it has not yet been redecorated it looks definitely shabby, inside and out. It is quite true that on Saturday evenings at least there is an unbelievable amount of noise from a six-man dance band, the air is thick with cigarette smoke, and some young people drink more than they can really take.

But still, Kurt Pagels, the young club manager, feels they are much better off here than in some of the rather doubtful pubs and dance halls in the neighbourhood, and that in time he will be able to interest them in other things. There are already about a hundred regular visitors on week days — for film shows, lectures, musical evenings etc. — compared with about 300 who turn up for dancing on Saturday evenings.

Kurt Pagels says about three quarters of these are steady young factory or office workers and shop assistants; the others come over from West Berlin for a cheap evening or have no regular jobs here. He feels that even those who slouch about in peculiar clothes, wear their hair too long or slap on too much make-up are mostly just showing off. Only a small percentage drink too much, but they are of course the ones who make the most noise.

Still, the general impression here is not good, so I thought I would go and have a look at the big central youth club house near Alexander Platz, which has been open for several years now.

This is a fine building with wide corridors, plenty of windows and dozens of rooms. There is a big courtyard at the back which is still partly blocked with rubble, but club members are clearing this themselves to make room for a volley-ball court, rock garden and terrace.

There is a permanent staff of 40 here, seventeen of whom are full-time youth workers. But I was a little surprised to hear from Herr Roger, the very young club manager, that there is only one girl among these. He told me quite frankly that girls find it extraordinarily difficult to hold their own with the rather tough and noisy young people who come here. There seems to be no doubt that our boys and girls, high school pupils included, are rowdy.

But this club, at any rate, has plenty to offer; monthly excursions, weekend coach tours — costing about 15 marks — between 20 and 25 lectures by visiting lecturers each month, at least one dance a week, television three evenings a week, library with 5,600 volumes, any number of film shows, including regular pre-views for the film study circle, and nearly seventy elementary and advanced study groups under trained instructors.

There are study groups in cooking, sewing, several musical instruments including jazz instruments, modern ball-room and folk dancing, journalism, film, radio, photography, fishing and stamp-collecting. The journalists' group puts out a little monthly paper — not bad, I thought; I looked through a few numbers and could not find a single printing mistake, only they seem a little staid and long-winded.

For some reason or other, Herr Roger told me, aeroplane, ship and railway model building, literature, physics, electrotechnology and chess are not at all popular. It isn't a question of subscriptions, either, for there is only a mark or so to pay for these, and literature courses are free. The highest fees, 15 to 20 marks, are for music, because the groups have to be small and instructors' fees are higher.

I believe the reason for lack of interest in literature may have something to do with dull lessons in school which somehow manage to kill children's interest early; teachers have to point too many morals and draw too many parallels in literature lessons in school, so that children are only too glad to be finished with it when they get out of school.

This club has the same difficulties, Herr Roger told me, in keeping dancing within bounds. The generally accepted idea now is that "you can dance how you like so long as you don't tear your neighbour's stockings", so that it is a little difficult to interfere.

But he is trying something else — with considerable success. He combines dance evenings with some interesting show; for instance, monthly national festivals — one month a Chinese evening, with the help of the Chinese Embassy here, another month a Mexican evening. When the dance begins people are in a less hectic frame of mind; they dance for pleasure and not so much for excitement. He has even started a monthly waltz evening, and this is quite popular too.

Leafing through the attractively printed monthly programmes, I noticed there is a small fee for most lectures — 20 or 30 pfennigs — and for dances and social evenings between 1 and 2 marks. These are only nominal, of course, and have no relation to the cost of running the club. The city administration allocates about 450,000 marks to this one club, and they get back between 20,000 and 30,000 marks in admission fees.

But it seems to me to be money well spent, considering that nearly a thousand boys and girls attend study circles all through the winter months and that the average attendance at lectures is about 70.

Youth clubs used to be deadly dull in East Berlin; now they really have something to offer. But it seems to me that this question of alcohol is really serious. All these clubs have buffet restaurants where you can buy Bockwurst (traditional hot sausage), coffee and cold dishes, as well as all kinds of alcoholic drinks. I suppose I am oldfashioned, but I still get a queer feeling when I see a boy and girl of 16 or 17 ordering wine or 12 per cent beer.

But Herr Roger assured me that it would be no use putting limits on alcohol in the clubs; teen-agers would simply go somewhere else where nobody would bother in the least how much they drink. He can at least keep some check on it — not always successfully, he says, for there are generally a few bold spirits who think getting drunk is pretty smart.

So you see, East Berlin has its problems with "Teddy boys" too.

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